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In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed information are also enclosed.

The undersigned first became aware of the cited patents by their inclusion in an International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on March 26, 2002 in the foreign counterpart of the present application. A copy of the search report is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Andrew Lowes  
Registration No. 40,706

miner and that a  
been considered.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C.  
20231 on 7/17/02.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

In place of PTO-1449 Form	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Complete if Known												
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/017,798</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>December 12, 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applicant(s)</td> <td>Kramer et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>1772</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>31567.3</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	10/017,798	Filing Date	December 12, 2001	Applicant(s)	Kramer et al.	Art Unit	1772	Examiner Name	Unknown	Attorney Docket Number	31567.3
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SHEET	1	OF 1												

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date <small>MONTH YYYY</small>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
	BA	4,822,361	April 1989	Okita et al.
	BB	5,708,044	January 1998	Branca
	BC	5,843,171	December 1998	Campbell et al.
	BD	5,980,799	November 1999	Martakos et al.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg);">           COPY OF PAPERS ORIGINALLY FILED         </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg);">             RECEIVED AUG 7 2002 TC 1700           </div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: small;">             TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700           </div> </div> </div>				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <small>(Country Code - Number - Kind)</small>	Publication Date <small>MONTH YYYY</small>	Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <small>YN</small>
	BE	EP 0402901 A2	December 1990	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Limited	Yes

OTHER PRIOR ART		
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city/country where published

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.